

PERSONAL STATEMENT (945 words)

Field of Study: Law

I grew up in an environment of science as both of my parents are specialists in Computer Sciences and Cybernetics. Throughout my school career, I had spent 10 years specializing in mathematics and won the 3rd prize in the Vietnam National Mathematics Contest for Talented Students in 1993. At the age of 17, I succeeded in a competitive universities entrance exam (1,400 accepted out of 36,000 applicants) to attend the Hanoi Law University. You may question what the correspondences between these facts are. From mathematics class I have learnt to work passionately and logically, how to find the most direct solution and how to try different approaches to solve problems. I was also taught to collect evidences from the smallest pieces of information and never give up even when facing with the most tremendous challenges. These skills and qualities are of great importance to pursuing a law degree.

At the university I enjoyed academic environment where I acquired in-depth knowledge of Vietnam business legal framework and international law issues, ranging from business forms to investment incentives, from banking, finance, insurance to land transfers, auction and securities market, international trade and many other aspects of law. Among these, Law on Foreign Investment was the first act that deals with economic issues and is proved to be continuously enhanced in the future. So I chose foreign direct investment (FDI) law as the thesis for my graduation dissertation.

After that I continued my specialization in investment law, not only in FDI but also in portfolio investment, Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects, while working for _____ Lawyers and Consultants. Since _____ is among the most prestigious Vietnamese consulting companies, I had chances to cooperate with and learn from various clients and many successful lawyers, both domestic and oversea ones. I was so impressed by the U.S. lawyers with their professionalism, perfect communication skill and total flexibility. By assisting investors in realizing their projects, I am enlightened that, it is the private sector, more specifically Vietnamese Small and Medium Enterprises, that contributes the most to the economy. No one but those businesses will decide the future of our prosperity. However my company was more keen on foreign investors, so I took the opportunity to be a legal official at _____, a reputable consulting body assisting the Vietnam Government in formulating most of its economic policies.

I was singularly fortunate to attend _____ at the right time when laws and regulations are being synthesized and restructured to meet with international standards and WTO accession requirements. Here I can be involved in various law reform projects, associate myself with different studies, take part in diverse negotiations. Most of which aim at further improving Vietnam business environment. Of all those activities, the work of revising regulations on investment projects under Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) agreements has fascinated me. This type of investment is designed for encouraging private sector to mobilize their capital and management resources to put in infrastructure projects. It is also tailored to the need of developing countries like Vietnam where the government lacks of funds and skills to deal with those projects despite their significance

in economic development. However the situation in Vietnam is much different than that of other countries, even China, so we face abundant difficulties in leveling the playing field for local and foreign business. A thorough perception of international and comparative legal studies would help me much in the job of making the laws suitable to Vietnam level of development as well as consistent with international practices. The range of application is not only limited to BOT projects but also to other forms of private participation in infrastructure.

Apart from the job, I have the passion for travelling and meeting people from different cultures. As a member of _____ Committee, I am endowed with occasions to visit many ASEAN countries. Appreciating both differences and similarities in their national characters, I am delighted to devote my endeavour to the process of making ASEAN a harmonious community and an integral part of the global economy. For this purpose, familiarization of culture value and construction of mutual understanding are key for the success.

In the long term, I wish to extend myself in a wide-ranging project which provide new ideas on comprehensive policies to further promote private sectors' businesses, including new ventures, expansion of projects, business restructuring, regional headquarters, portfolio investment, etc. Measures to be taken comprise of liberalization, promotion and facilitation activities, of which facilitating investors with simplified application process, transparent and predictable policies are of crucial importance. This will be a very challenging work that requires continuous efforts from various agencies as well as all business cycle. Upon fulfilling major objectives of the project, I may continue facilitation activities by starting up my own business in investment consulting and business development services in the next 10 years and providing direct assistance to investors.

Although my four years of experience in the field are not so long, I have had golden opportunities to take part in different projects, at both macro and micro levels. From those experiences I have absorbed valuable lessons and precious skills which are essential to my life and career as well. A LLM program in the US would help me further utilize such advantages and upgrade into internationally recognised professional. I am confident that I will progress in legal study and practice whatever difficulty I might confront with. With this background preparation I have substantially gained in the area of international business law, I am confident that my study in the US would be very productive and by all means I would make a significant contribution to the development of the private sector in my country.